

**Jessica Stafford**

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for this opportunity to voice my opposition to House Bill 454. This dangerous legislation is the opposite of safe and targets an already vulnerable group of Ohio youth by denying them access to life saving affirming medical care and revoking funding to hospitals who provide it. This bill would also threaten the safety of students in schools by forcing school guidance counselors and staff to abide by new rules that would be in direct conflict with the ethical guidance of their fields as well as title IV.

My 16 yr old son is the happiest he's ever been in his whole life due to the life saving medical care he is receiving. And I say life saving because without it, he would have committed suicide. Please don't take this away from thousands of Ohioan children!

I urge you to oppose HB 454 and protect our state's youth.